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THURSDAY MORNING, NOV. 5, 2026

Presiding Officer:
José C. Villarreal, Jackson Walker LLP, Austin, TX

7:30 a.m. **Registration Opens**

Includes continental breakfast.

8:15 a.m. **Welcoming Remarks**

8:25 a.m. .75 hr

Recent Developments in Claim Construction

The foundation of patent application preparation/prosecution, district court trials, Federal Circuit appeals, and AIA post-grant review proceedings, is claim construction. Review the important 2024–2025 claim construction cases and issues at the Federal Circuit and trial court levels, as well as at the PTAB. Examine the PTAB's procedural and substantive claim construction "rules, practices, and etc." Discuss adherence to the APA by the PTAB under various circumstances. And, discuss the claim construction interface between an IPR and a parallel district court proceeding.

Kenneth R. Adamo, Law Office of KRAdamo, Chicago, IL

9:15 a.m. .50 hr

Recent Trends in Patent Enforcement and Defense Strategies

This presentation explores the latest trends and strategic considerations in U.S. patent litigation, including where to file and what validity challenges to make, particularly in light of recent changes in the district courts and at the U.S. Patent Office affecting choice of venue and inter partes reviews (IPR's) versus ex parte reexaminations (EPR's).

Steven J. Pollinger, McKool Smith, Austin, TX

9:45 a.m. .50 hr

Update on 702 and *Daubert*

Max L. Tribble Jr., Susman Godfrey LLP, Houston, TX

10:15 a.m. **15-Minute Break**

10:30 a.m. .50 hr

Recent Updates to Domestic Industry in Section 337 Litigation

A discussion of recent Federal Circuit and Commission opinions that have both dramatically eased as well as complicated the domestic industry analysis in ITC Section 337 litigation.

Tommy Martin, Baker Botts, Washington, DC

11:00 a.m. .50 hr

Patent Investing and Litigation Funding

The world of patent investing and litigation funding is becoming more established and complex. Hear a discussion of the latest developments in the industry, including how courts have addressed disclosure and privilege issues and the impact of funding on litigation strategy.

Michelle Eber, West U Capital, Houston, TX

11:30 a.m. **Pick Up Lunch**

Included in registration.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

Presiding Officer:
Steve Borgman, Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP, Houston, TX

LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

11:50 a.m. .50 hr

Keynote Presentation with Alan D Albright

Lessons learned from the bench.

Hon. Alan D Albright, U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas, Waco, TX

12:20 p.m. **15-Minute Break**

12:35 p.m. .50 hr

PTAB Judges and Analogous Art Doctrine

Even as analogous art doctrine has become more prominent in opinions of the Patent and Trial Appeal Board (PTAB), several of the PTAB's administrative patent judges have deviated from Federal Circuit precedent and ongoing USPTO guidance through opinions suggesting that KSR's flexible approach to nonobviousness analysis has demoted the two-part analogous art test to a source of "helpful insight" whose satisfaction is not strictly required. This presentation discusses the PTAB opinions and how practitioners might respond before the PTAB or elsewhere.

John M. Golden, The University of Texas School of Law, Austin, TX

1:05 p.m. .75 hr

Patent Fault Lines: The Shifting Ground of Patenting and Litigating in the Life Sciences Sector

This presentation examines key legal developments shaping patent protection and enforcement in the life sciences sector, with a focus on evolving standards in patentability and infringement.

Michael Krawzsenek, Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP, Austin, TX
Gina N. Shishima, Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP, Austin, TX

1:50 p.m. .50 hr

Beyond the Prompt: Agentic AI in Patent Prosecution

Most practitioners still treat AI as a chatbot, hunting for the right prompt. This presentation moves past prompting to agentic systems that carry out multi-step prosecution tasks under attorney supervision, drawn from tools I built and use in daily practice, with candid guidance on what works, what does not, and where to start.

Charles W. Gray, Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP, Denver, CO

2:20 p.m. **15-Minute Break**

MCLE

This course has been approved for Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit by the State Bar of Texas Committee on MCLE in the amount of 13.50 hours, of which 3.25 credit hours will apply to legal ethics/professional responsibility credit. The University of Texas School of Law is a State Bar of California approved MCLE provider (#1944), and an Oklahoma Bar Association MCLE presumptively-approved provider (#169).

2:35 p.m. .75 hr ethics

Ethical Use of AI

An exploration of the practical implications of using AI tools in legal work, including safeguarding client data, supervising and validating AI-generated outputs, and avoiding over reliance on automated systems. Drawing on recent ethics opinions, case law, and real-world examples, including sanctions arising from improper AI use, this session provides guidance on how to mitigate those risks and comply with evolving regulatory expectations.

Robert Denby, Vinson & Elkins LLP, Houston, TX

3:20 p.m. 1.00 hr | .50 hr ethics

Judicial Panel

Gain insight from distinguished District Court Judges from across the nation regarding their experiences hearing and trying patent cases.

Moderator:
Hon. Alan D Albright, U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas, Waco, TX

Panelists:
Hon. Andrew Davis, U.S. Court Western District, Austin, TX
Hon. Christopher Wolfe, U.S. Court Western District, Waco, TX

4:20 p.m. Adjourn

NETWORKING RECEPTION

4:20 p.m. – 5:20 p.m.

Join us for drinks and hors d'oeuvres with program faculty and attendees.

FRIDAY MORNING, NOV. 6, 2026

Presiding Officer:
William D. Wiese, DuBois, Bryant & Campbell, L.L.P., Austin, TX

8:00 a.m. Conference Room Opens

Includes continental breakfast.

8:30 a.m. .50 hr

Who May Sue: Patent Standing Issues and Implications for the Life Sciences Industry (Part II) for IP Strategist

This discusses complex patent standing issues relevant to companies in the life sciences sector. The article examines special circumstances affecting standing, such as exclusive field of use licenses, corporate control over patent owners, and trust arrangements, and analyzes how mid-litigation transfers of patent rights can impact a party's ability to maintain suit and recover damages. It highlights Federal Circuit case law addressing these issues and underscores the importance of careful structuring of patent ownership and assignments to avoid gaps in standing that may lead to dismissal or limit damages.

Matthew Chivvis, Morrison & Foerster LLP, Menlo Park, CA

9:00 a.m. .50 hr

Insurance for Claims of Patent Infringement

Learn which lines of insurance cover patent infringement claims and how those claims are covered (and paid).

Kimberly K. Cauthorn, Willis Towers Watson, Austin, TX

9:30 a.m. .50 hr

Recent Developments in Prosecution Practice at the USPTO

The mechanics and substance of prosecution at the USPTO have been and continue to be impacted by the after effects of DOGE, by the morale of the Examiner Corps, by the implementation of AI tools, by changing rules and guidance, and by the input of the new Director. While the bar associations are working with USPTO leadership to understand and mitigate or improve some of the worst results, we are pragmatically adapting to the reality on the ground. Let's talk expectations and options to best assist our clients.

Michael W. Piper, Conley Rose, PC, Plano, TX

10:00 a.m. 15-Minute Break

10:15 a.m. .50 hr

PTAB and CRU Post-Grant Challenges: How Things Have Changed in the Last Two Years

There have been whirlwind of changes in IPR, PGR, and ex parte reexamination practice since early 2025. This covers details of the different options and potential strategies in the current environment, including as it relates to the interplay with district court litigation.

Jacqueline W. Bonilla, Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox PLLC, Washington, DC

10:45 a.m. .50 hr

Preserving Damages in Patent Litigation

Proactively considering damages evidence from a plaintiff's perspective, including licensing strategy, can preserve damages models and lower litigation risk.

Holly Barnes, Spencer Fane, Houston, TX

11:15 a.m. 1.00 hr

Year in Review

A review of developments in patent law and policy at the Federal Circuit and the USPTO.

Joseph Matal, Clear IP, LLC, Washington, DC

12:15 p.m. Pick Up Lunch

Included in registration.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Presiding Officer:
Michael P. Adams, Dykema, Austin, TX

LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

12:45 p.m. .50 hr

Businesses Using IP as Capital

An examination of how businesses use patents as financial assets, including their role in: acquisitions, sales, licensing, and as collateral for lending. It also considers what makes a patent portfolio well-suited for these purposes, drawing on conversations with IP finance professionals, patent monetization experts, and technology company executives.

Eric Scheuerlein, Daylight Law, P.C., Palo Alto, CA

1:15 p.m. 15-Minute Break

1:30 p.m. .50 hr

Ex Parte/PJR

As ex parte reexamination (EPR) filings surge in response to narrowed access to inter partes reviews, the USPTO has fundamentally altered the post-grant landscape with major procedural shifts in 2026. This session explores the impact of recent policy changes concerning EPRs and how to effectively implement EPR practice into your overall IP strategy.

Justin L. Krieger, Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP, Denver, CO

2:00 p.m. 1.00 hr ethics

How to Avoid Sanctions

In today's world of generative AI, IPRs and EPRs, patent assertion entities, and litigation funding, filing, prosecuting, and defending cases has become fraught with danger. This presentation examines recent sanctions decisions and provide advice on how to avoid falling into the same (and other) traps.

Hon. Shashi H. Kewalramani (Ret.), JAMS, Irvine, CA
Kevin Kudlac, Radulescu LLP, Austin, TX

3:00 p.m. 15-Minute Break

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3:15 p.m. .50 hr ethics

The Wrinkles of IP Monetization

Patent monetization opportunities present a revenue stream for companies, particularly for companies that are looking at cost-savings from the technology and legal groups. This presentation focuses on wrinkles and pitfalls associated with monetization, how to structure and identify targets, and how to develop a portfolio attractive for monetization.

Ali Dhanani, Baker Botts, Houston, TX

3:45 p.m. .75 hr ethics

Ethics in IP Transactions and Litigation

This session explores ethical issues that occur in both transactional and litigation practice. Including a discussion of choice of law, client identity, and improper ex parte contacts with represented persons.

David Hricik, Mercer Law School, Macon, GA

4:30 p.m. Adjourn

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November 5–6, 2026

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October 20, 2026
Last day for regular registration rates

October 30, 2026
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November 5, 8:15 a.m., CT
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